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1-15-04

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appn. Number: 09/405,946
Filing Date: 09/27/99
Applicant: Pierre Hilaire
Appn. Title: Valved Connector with Closure Operated by Axial Movement of the Valve
Examiner: Manuel Mendez GAU: 3763

Mailed December 17, 2003

AMENDMENT B

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, District of Columbia 20231

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DEC 30 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed 07/17/ 2003, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

The current Office Action incorrectly stated the status of the claims. The correct status of the claims is as follows:

Claims 1-19 are pending in this application.

Claims 1-4, 7-13 and 16-19 stand rejected.

Claims 5, 6, 14 and 15 were not address in the Office Action.

ELECTION/RESTRICTION

In the previous Office Action, dated 10/03/2002, Examiner withdrew the restriction requirement previously made in paper number 9. Therefore, claims 1-19 are currently pending in this application.

REQUEST FOR WITHDRAWAL OF THE FINAL OFFICE ACTION

On page 6 of the current Office Action, Examiner stated:

“Applicant’s amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.**”

Applicant wishes to point out that the only amendments to the claims made in Amendment A, filed on 04/03/2003, were to correct the spelling of the word “movably” to “movable” in claims 1 and 13. Applicant is at a loss to understand how this simple spelling correction would necessitate the new grounds of rejection. Examiner is invited to explain his reasoning for this statement or to withdraw the finality of the Office Action.

REQUEST FOR A CORRECTED SUPPLEMENTAL OFFICE ACTION

As noted above, the current Office Action incorrectly stated the status of the claims and failed to address claims 5, 6, 14 and 15, which were pending in the application. Examiner is requested to issue a corrected supplemental Office Action which addresses all of the claims pending in the application. Applicant wishes to remind Examiner that the new Office Action should be nonfinal.